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NPMP board meets for 2008 plans and beyond

The board of directors of the National Prison Ministries Philippines, Inc. (NPMP) met last October 31 to endorse the plan proposed by executive director Ms. Tess Uadan for the year 2008 and beyond

Ms. Uadan's report to the board highlighted the training of 95 (not 74 as earlier reported) paralegal and inmates welfare development personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) who participated in launching the Sycamore Tree Project (STP) to pilot jails of the National Capital Region Office

In appreciation of Ms. Uadan's stewardship of the NPMP, the board unanimously approved a resolution

extending the term of office of the interim executive director, pending revision of the NPMP by-laws. The board also moved to amend the existing by-laws of the NPMP and assigned Atty. Roy Valenzuela, board vice-chairman, to draft the amendments.

Plans for 2008 include piloting of more STPs at BJMP-NCRO jails. This program will be initiated in partnership with the Inmates Welfare Development office of the BJMP under Fr. Bert Sagadal. The NPMP hopes to promote the STP too at the New Bilibid Prison and possibly at Iwahig Penal Farm. Other programs envisioned in 2008 include breakfast testimonials, fairs to show off the crafts made by inmates and more partnership-building and networking.



Fr. [Fr. Bert Sagadal of BJMP-NCRO]

NPMP partners with local church to launch new inmate program

The National Prison Ministries Philippines, Inc. (NPMP) in partnership with the Glory to the Lord Fellowship (GLF) launched a modified Spokesman's Club program for inmates in the maximum security compound of the New Bilibid Prison.

The Spokesman's Club is a program of the Worldwide Church of God whose aim is to equip its members for leadership through effective public speaking. It consists of eleven lessons. Lesson one starts with learning how to "Speak with Purpose". The succeeding lessons help one to be able to write and deliver a complete speech. It is envisioned that through this program, participants will also be helped to take concrete steps toward reconciliation and restoration which are two major goals of restorative justice.

In the introductory session, Pastor Andrew C. Teng, senior pastor of the Glory to the Lord Fellowship, shared with the participants the secret of effective speaking by following the steps taught in the program manual. He encouraged them to practice speaking by reading aloud so that they may hear their voice and pronunciation.

The club's membership came from the Jesus the Word Fellowship, a home-grown church inside New Bilibid Prison, and Jesus Is Lord Church. The members were excited to take the challenges of learning effective speaking and other training experiences included in the program. Club members elected four of their members as officers.



[Pastor Andrew and wife, Gladys]

Local Church in Naga City spearheads celebration in jail

The Worldwide Church of God in Naga City (WCG-Naga) spearheaded the annual celebration of the National Correctional Consciousness Week in Tigaon District Jail in Tigaon, Camarines Sur last Oct 26, 2007. A program cum worship highlighted the celebration.

Jail warden, Inspector Dominici Batacan, gave a message on what the government is doing to make life in jail more humane. Ptr. Reuel Pamor, senior pastor of the WCG-Naga church, on the other hand, encouraged the audience with a message on forgiveness or being pardoned.

With all the inmates as audience, Ptr. Reuel said that because of our sinful nature all humans have committed a crime. And in God's eyes all are declared guilty and received the death penalty. However, because of God's love we all have been granted pardon and forgiveness through

Jesus death. Such forgiveness takes effect when we accept God's liberating grace.



[Ptr. Reuel Pamor sharing a message with prisoners of the Tigaon District Jail]

Tigaon district jail had been recognized as an outstanding district jail. The facility houses 70 inmates, around 30 of whom have accepted Jesus and His forgiveness. The Jesus Victorious Christian Ministry (JVCM) worship group led in the worship service. JVCM is a partner of the WCG-Naga in the latter's prison ministry at the Tigaon district jail.

As part of the celebration a communion service was held where 45 people, including inmates participated. Snacks were served and pieces of personal items like soap and toothpaste were given to the inmates. Ptr. Domingo Trilles, a member of the pastoral team of WCG-Naga, coordinated the event.

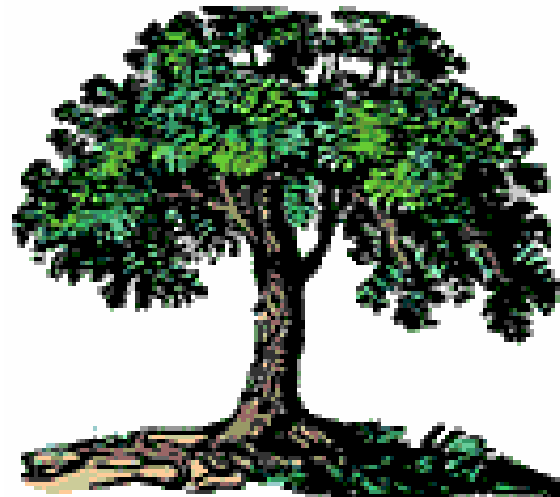
After the event some inmates commented that they were encouraged by being remembered and honoured with this kind of celebration. The jail management also expressed their thanks to the facilitators for spearheading the event and hoped for a continuing partnership through the local church's prison ministry.

Would you like to participate in the ministry of the National Prison Ministry Philippines? Please let us know of your intentions by emailing us at the following addresses:

ephesiansway@yahoo.com
tessuadan@yahoo.com

If you would like to support our prison ministry work, especially the promotion and holding of the Sycamore Tree Program, as well as other projects, in the prisons all over the Philippines, you may send in your donations to the following bank account number (c/o Ms. Aileen Orogo):

**NPMPI- Acct# 1994 – 0173 – 29
 Bank of the Philippine Islands
 Kalayaan Branch, Kalayaan Ave.
 Quezon City**



The Sycamore Tree Program is based on the Story of Jesus and Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1 – 10 (New Living Translation):